

# The monthly A\*C\*E

Serving the Free Radio community since 1982  
ANARC member 1983 - 2005

May 2005

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## RADIO ZEBULON "WE'RE NOT REAL PIRATES"

TO: JOHN T. ARTHUR

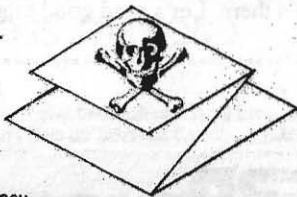
QSL#: 17

DATE: 6-27-96

01:05-

TIME: 01:35 UTC

FREQ: 6955 USB VIA RBCN



"WE'RE SEARS® PIRATES"

from the desk of the Managing Editor

Ye Olde Editor: [ACEHdq@localnet.com](mailto:ACEHdq@localnet.com)  
or: (585) 365-8870 (not collect)

The Winter SWL Fest was a bit small this March, but still a good time. Notable was the fact that "scarfman" was scarfless for the first time since I've been attending. The top prizes were an AoR 7030 and an Icom R75, neither of which came home with me, dangit. They've already scheduled the next two 'Fests, so there'll be at least 20 of 'em and you have no excuse for failing to attend one. Believe me, it's worth the time, expense, and effort to get there.

Probably the biggest news to come out of the Fest was the dissolution of ANARC after some 21 years of existence. It's truly a shame, but without active volunteers the group became a shadow organization rather than a voice for the listeners and clubs. RIP. See what happens when you don't contribute?

Clandestine Profile editor Vincent Havrilko has been deployed to Iraq for several months and his column may or may not appear regularly while he's there. Let's send good thoughts his way and hope for a safe return.

Onward...!

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## DIALOGS May 2005

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AIM: KD1SQ / ICQ: 4139354 / Yahoo IM: KD1SQ

(Next deadline for submissions: 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2005)

### Format of a log entry:

Date Heard / Time Heard (in UTC) / Frequency (in kHz) / Mode / Details of Transmission

### Modes:

A = AM F = FM L = Lower Sideband U = Upper Sideband

### Reporting a signal's quality:

The simplest way of doing this is to judge the signal as being "Poor", "Fair" or "Good" and reporting it as such.

If you're one of them highfalutin' types with radios that are smarter'n your dawg, you probably use the SIO system

S = Signal (strength)

I = Interference

O = Overall (quality)

S, I and O are all rated between 0 and 5, 0 being worst, 5 being best. (As I recall, there were written tables for these values but I haven't seen one in a very long time. If you have the details somewhere, send 'em along to me!)

## LATE LOGS

### Radio FCC

- 02/20/05, 2218-2237\*, 6925A. (RD-PA Fair)

## FROM ACROSS THE POND

### ALFA LIMA INTERNATIONAL ()

- 04/05/05, 0458-0520+, 6266A - Decent signal from Alfred playing Europop, greeting listeners such as Dave Valko and others from the USA and Canada. (CL-MA 232)

### RADIO FREE LONDON ()

- 04/03/05, 0520-0545, 6275A - This one fading up out of the noise at London sunrise. Two OM giving the broadcasting history of Radio Free London, various pre-recorded jingles thrown in as well. Fade out after 0550. Best on my Drake SW-4A with the 200 foot long wire. (CL-MA 232)

### Radio Scotland International ([www.radioscotland.nl](http://www.radioscotland.nl))

- 04/10/05, 0442-0535, 6305A - mx - Pop. Not bad reception for a Euro. IDs, OM announcer saying he'd been on since 0300 UTC, giving the station's web address as [www.radioscotland.nl](http://www.radioscotland.nl). Thanked listeners for their support. (CL-MA 232) (WS-TN Poor)

## NORTH/SOUTH AMERICAN LOGGINGS

### Ann Hoffer Radio (FRN)

- 03/20/05, 2010-2016, 6925U - Live Ann! Weaker than usual, tho'... (BL-VT Poor)
- 03/27/05, 2223-2236, 6900 USB, song "Look What they've Done to My Song". (WS-TN Fair) (WH-IL Fair)
- 04/2/05, 0008-0019, 6925U - mx - Ann, a guitar, and back up singers with a variety of live songs ending with "House of the rising sun" and "I love marijuana." Several IDs and requests to FRN. (MT-WT 244)

### Captain Morgan ()

- 06/15/05, 2244-0103, 6924A - Twilight Zone theme tag, then funky pop (including "Play that funky music white boy"), and snatches of other pop and even a little techno. (MT-WI 333)

### Channel Z ()

- 04/04/05, 0034, 6951A - Heard here at 0034z but I've got S9 pulsing QRM. 0055z by using a 3K BW and shifting the passband, it's a very good signal. RTTY on 6953 and another UTE on 6950ish that pulses on and off. Really s\*cks..... (BL-VT Good)

### Ground Zero Radio (Elkhorn)

- 03/27/05, 0007-0026\*, 6926A - mx - Rock. Didn't actually get a clear ID on this broadcast, but it was a program of rock mx with frequent mentions of the Elkhorn addr for QSL's. I had thought that this might be Altered States R., but later when I heard the same broadcast with a better signal, it was clear that this was Ground Zero R. During this broadcast, the signal was too weak and variable to get a clear ID. (GZ-OH 242)
- 03/27/05, 0110, 6900 AM, sign off after Rolling Stones program. (WS-TN poor)
- 03/27/05, \*0226-0254\*, 6925U - similar or identical to the 0007 3/27 best. Anecd as the "Stoned" best, although OM said that this had nothing to do with reefer. Instead it was a retrospective history of the blues influences on Mick Jaggar and the Rolling Stones. Several Stones tunes including "Mother's Little Helper," and also the "B" side to several of their early hits, which were remakes of Chuck Barry blues tunes. Used a slogan of "besting with an earth shattering 10 watts of RF power." OM ID's himself as Dave Gunn at QRT. Sirens and "Burt the Turtle" from the old "Duck and Cover" atomic bomb propaganda film at the beginning of the best. Elkhorn addr. AC hum in audio. (GZ-OH 242)(WH-IL Fair)
- 04/17/05, 2359, 6900A - test broadcast, song "Absolution" by Scott Miller and the Commonwealth. (WS-TN good)
- 04/18/05, \*0018-0040\*, 6925U - Better signal than the other best from them earlier today. Dave Gunn and Texas Pete w/trumpet fanfare at open, into a prgm of rock mx. Anecd as a test of a new antenna, and thus wants repts to Elkhorn. Mentioned that it was Sunday afternoon, so sounded live. (GZ-OH 242)
- 04/18/05, 2324-2339+, 6925A - Trumpet fanfare at s/on, into a prgm mostly of classical mx. Several clear ID's and gave Elkhorn addr. (GZ-OH 242)

### KRMI ()

- 03/27/05, 2315-2339\*, 6925U - mx - variety of novelty Easter songs, most involving bunnies. OM gives a narrative of the story of Peter Cottontail and how a farmer boy saved him from a fox. Gave R. Michigan Intl. slogan, but hrd no addr anecd. At close, said, "This prgm is coming to you from the United States of America." (GZ-OH 242)(WS-TN Poor)

### K-ZAP ()

- 03/20/05, 2105, 6950A - Welcome to the Jungle, then Jump. Get a "Hum" kinda interference once in a while. (BL-VT Poor)

### Pirate Radio Boston ()

- 03/19/05, 2328-0002, 6925A - greetings to listeners including some guy named Woody Smith in Tennessee. (WS-TN Poor)
- 03/20/05, 1500, 6925A - Ataris Boys of Summer to start off, reading listener mail, Charlie Loudeno with Mr. Excellence. Great signal with some fades. (BL-VT Fair)

### Peter Cottontail Station ()

- 03/27/05, 2157-2207\*, 6925U - mx - several renditions of the Peter Cottontail song by an OM singer with a western fiddle band accompanying the singing. Peter Cottontail made several anmts that he had come back to rescue his OM from the clutches of Commander Bunny. No clear ID anecd during the entire best, and no addr anecd. This show did not appear to be a WBNY best. (GZ-OH 242)
- 03/27/05, 2231-2233, 6900U - Peter Cottontail song by Gene Autry, announcement that we must win out over the Evil Commander Bunny, (since followed by Ann Hoffer may be same station but sounded different here) (WS-TN Good)(WH-IL Fair)

### Radio Novocaine ()

- 04/07/05, 2254-2338\*, 6925U - mx - various Rock inc. Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody", "Maxwell Jump" song and IDs at the top of the hour - 2330z Signal much better but the music levels seem louder than the announcer's speech. (CL-MA 232)(BL-VT Fair)(WS-TN Fair)

### Take It Easy Radio (Merlin)

- 03/20/05, 0133-0234, 6925U - mx - Pink Floyd, Johnny Cash. S/on with big bells ringing. (WH-IL Good)
- 04/16/05, 0211-0220+, 6925U - mx - Rock. Desperado talking at length about politics, state of the country (U.S. that is), etc. (MT-WI 232)
- 04/17/05, 0055-0058, 6875 USB, discussion of gas prices, politicians, etc. (WS-TN Fair)
- 04/17/05, 0215-0225+, 6925U - Talking about high gas prices, ID, thanking his maildrop operator, etc. Slow fade into nothingness. (CL-MA 121)

### The Crystal Ship (Belfast/tcsshortwave@yahoo.com)

- 03/27/05, 1441-1442, 6855A - mx, ID. (WS-TN Fair)
- 03/28/05, 0245-0250+, 6857A - The Poet playing oldies and the theme from Underdog, etc. (CL-MA 232)
- 03/30/05, 0028-0059+, 6857A - Hrd on a UTC Wednesday night on this unusual freq. Prgm of rock and folk tunes, mainly with lyrics taunting the FCC, plus an instance or two of Bush bashing in the lyrics. Set your Radio Free tune, bits by various celebs, R2D2 and Darth Vader, Reagan: "We bomb Russia in 5 minutes." ID's of "you are tuned to The Crystal Ship" by OM. Gave Belfast addr and also [tcsshortwave@yahoo.com](mailto:tcsshortwave@yahoo.com) e-mail for repts. Good signal at first, but after 0058 or so, the carrier was still there but the audio was vanishing in a fade-out. (GZ-OH 343)(BL-VT Good)
- 03/30/05, 0147-0247\*, 6857A - ID, boat horn IS at sign off. (CL-MA 232)
- 04/04/05, 0010, 6857A - mx - The Ramones. Poet was just getting going and suddenly - gone! Hope he didn't pop another T-150! Back on at 0027 and gone again. (BL-VT Fair)
- 04/11/05, 0053-0110+, 6881A - Weak but fairly clear reception. The program content was largely The Poet with Republican bashing. Carrier still there after 0110, but copyable audio had largely vanished by then. (GZ-OH 242)(WS-TN Poor)
- 04/14/05, 0027-0148+, 6854A - Prgm of mostly rock mx, but also some chanting children at the beginning (sort of like KJES). Better signal from them than usual, but on an odd freq as usual. Belfast addr. (GZ-OH Good)
- 04/15/05, 0117-0200, 6855A - mx - Rock. IDs. (MT-WI, 233)
- 04/15/05, 0230-0240, 6855A - Spanish vocals, EE ID, address by the Poet. Said to be testing the new Valiant transmitter. Sounded good. (CL-MA Good)
- 04/18/05, 0148, 6855 AM, IDs. (WS-TN Good)

### Undercover Radio (Merlin or undercoverradio@mail.com)

- 03/20/05, 0120-0133+, 6925A - poor, much static. Host is Doctor Benway. Pornographic story from what I could understand. (WH-IL Poor)
- 03/20/05, 1400, 6925U - Doctor Benway, weak signal. (BL-VT Poor)
- 03/20/05, 2205, 6925U - Dr Benway is back with a better signal this PM. Mechanic, He disappeared around 2210z (BL-VT Poor)
- 03/25/05, 2337-0007, 6925A - Sounds like Wm. F. Burroughs, applause. (WH-IL Poor)
- 03/26/05, 2255-2305+, 6925A - Dr. Benway gives an ID, email address and then talks about somebody breaking a man's legs. (CL-MA Poor)
- 03/27/05, 0119-0122\* & \*0147-0057\*, 6925A - mx - Rock. Relatively weak signal, but a clear ID extracted anyway & their typical slogan of "Don't tell them what we are doing" is heard. Also some WSPY-style phonetic letters. Gave [undercoverradio@mail.com](mailto:undercoverradio@mail.com) for repts. The second best appeared to be a repeat of the first best. OM identified himself as "AI" at QRT of the second best. (GZ-OH 242)(WH-IL Poor)
- 03/28/03, 0031-0118\*, 6925A - nicely produced and relaxing show with monologues and brief hypnotic sessions to steel us against the insidious dangers of Commander Bunny. (Interestingly, the phrasing of the hypnotic commands was such as to show at least a passing acquaintance with real techniques.) IDs, drops at 0037, 0047, 0049. (LR-NH Good)
- 03/29/05, 0105-0118\*, 6925A - Beware of Commander Bunny and the rodent revolution, etc. (CL-MA 232)



- 04/10/05, 2011-2110+, 6925U - mx - Pop. Our host is Dr. Benway, who as usual was "broadcasting from the middle of nowhere." On many occasions he appeared to be getting ready to go QRT, and then he gave ID's and the [undercoverradio@mail.com](mailto:undercoverradio@mail.com) e-mail addr. Off for a minute or so several times, but then immediately came back. Was still going after 2110, but the signal was weakening under local noise, and copy disappeared here. (GZ-OH 222)
- 04/16/05, 0130-0204+ 6925 AM, philosophical musings with jazz mx in background. IDs much more readable than mx or speech. (WS-TN Fair)(GZ-OH Fair)(MT-WI 121)

#### WEAK (Belfast)

- 03/2705, 2350-0008, 6940A - sign off with "Hound Dog" by Elvis Presley. (WS-TN Good)

#### WHGW ([whgw6925@myway.com](mailto:whgw6925@myway.com))

- 04/02/05, 1455-1559\*, 6925U - An airing of CBS radio production of "The Maltese Falcon" with Edward G. Robinson as Sam Spade. Nice audio and signal. (CL-MA 444)
- 04/02/05, 2038-2104\*, 6925U - A radio drama about visitors from Venus, ID by English accented YL giving email as [whgw6925@myway.com](mailto:whgw6925@myway.com) and urging listeners to post logs on the Free Radio Network (CL-MA)
- 04/03/05, 0034-0131\*, 6925U - Prgm of rock mx, following a confusing drama about some character named Yolanda, who had some adventures in St. Louis and New Hampshire. YL anncr with WHGW ID and email address @ 0130. (LR-NH Poor)(WS-TN Poor)(GZ-OH 232)

#### WKIL ()

- 04/11/05, 0248, 6925A - mx - soothing Rock. ID s by Jack Black. (WS-TN Fair)

#### WKZP ()

- 04/06/05, 2335-0008, 6925A - Playing Black Sabbath and others, fading quite a bit and noisy.... (BL-VT Poor)

#### WMPR ()

- 03/20/05, 0023, 6925A - Good signal with some fades. Cool tunage! (BL-VT Good)
- 04/06/05, 0109-0128, 6925A - mx - Dance, Trance. Killer signal with some fades. Noisier by the end of the show. (BL-VT Good)

#### WNKR ()

- 04/03/05, 2334-0054, 6925A - mx - The Human League, Journey, Mudd, The Sweet, Deep Purple. Nice lineup of UK 70's and 80's sounds. UK-accented OM anncr giving WNKR ID @ 2342. Transmission was a relay by Channel Z Radio. (LR-NH Fair)(WS-TN Poor)(GZ-OH 242)(BL-VT Good)
- 04/10/05, 1352-1355\*, 6264A - mx - Tony Orlando & Dawn, ID by OM and off, A Channel Z relay. (CL-MA 333)

#### WSPY (FRN)

- 03/19/05, 1932, 6925U. (BL-VT Poor)
- 04/03/05, \*1953-2002\*, \*2004-2006\*, \*2014-2044\*, 6925U - On and off at times as noted here, w/ancd xmtr test. Rock mx, occasional telephone tones, and a couple of phonetic letters at times. OM anncr said to send repts to the FRN web site, but gave no addr. (GZ-OH 343)

#### XERV Relay ()

- 04/15/05, 2352-0013\*, 6925A - A mix of several items in the show, including some old Vietnam war pirate radio sound bits. Used one slogan as "The Voice of Rock from San Diego." Discussion of what it took to be a Democrat back in the days of Herbert Hoover, which sounded like it might be an old Amos and Andy sketch. Late in the best they gave an XERV Los Angeles ID, which is a program carried on a Los Angeles station with different call letters, I believe. No addr anncd. (GZ-OH 242)

### TENTATIVE/UNIDENTIFIED

#### Captain Morgan?

- 04/18/05, 0042, 6925A - music, typical Captain Morgan signature sound effects but no ID. (WS-TN Good)

#### UNID

- 03/19/05, 2211-2229, 6925A - repetitive singing, according to a friend from India, this was an 8th century Sanskrit piece from India, Vishnu Sahastranamam by Shri Shakara, performed by M. S. Subbu Lekshmi, a famous Indian vocalist, (so how do you say "PSE QSL" in Sanskrit?)(WS-TN fair)(BL-VT Good)
- 03/26/05, 0340, 6925U - NOAA weather relay for Sacramento CA. (WH-IL Poor)
- 03/27/05, 2336, 6925U - Easter Programming. (WH-IL Fair)
- 03/28/05, 0325-0329, 6924A - mx - Steppenwolf, "Twilight Zone" theme. Off suddenly. (WH-IL Poor)
- 04/06/05, 0035-0100, 3885A - K1MAN is on 3890 so there is a QSO there to QRM him and this guy on 3885 playing tunes. (BL-VT Good)(Of course, it \*has\* to be a Pirate - a Ham would \*never\* do such a thing! Lee)
- 04/15/05, 2316-2325, 6925U - South Park sections, "Oh Canada" parody, Elvis' "In the Ghetto" with comments, ditty about unwinding, off. No IDs. (MT- WI 333)
- 04/15/05, 2326-2344, 6925U - mx - "Oompah Loompah" song from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, "White Rabbit". YL talking (couldn't make out what she was saying), unid music, Oompah Loompah song agin, either lost signal or off (MT-WI 121)
- 04/16/05, 2318-2356, 6900U- Jackson Browne mx, Toby Keith live version of song "Angry American", "Peter Cottontail" song, great signal, no ID. (WS-TN Good)
- 04/16/05, 2330, 6925A - pop ballads, slow freq drift downward. (WH-IL Poor)
- 04/17/05, 0005-0039, 6925U - James Bond themes, "WKRP in Cincinnati" song, Crank Yankers gags, very good signal, no ID. (WS-TN good)(WH-IL Good)

#### WACK?

- 03/19/05, 0320, 3880A - mx - "Feelin' Groovy", obscene versions of Christmas Carols. Duck voice. (WH-IL Fair)

### MAIL DROPS

These are the relevant - for this month - addresses to which you should send your reports as appropriate (along with at least three first class stamps to handle mailing costs) if you're doing things by snail mail or if the station doesn't use email.

Don't forget that foreign drops need IRCs or dollar bills instead of US postage stamps.

Semi-foreign drops (read: Canadians) need cash or IRCs, but might accept cowry shells, beads or small hand mirrors. Routine is an accepted medium of exchange only within the province of Quebec.

Of course, if you really want to cover all the bases - get with it and spend the vast sum of \$49 bucks (after rebate) for a Web TV box - as time goes by, more and more of the QSL business is being transacted via email.

Belfast: Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711

Elkhorn: P.O. Box 69, Elkhorn, NE 68022

Merlin: Box 293, Merlin, Ontario NOP 1W0, CANADA

### QSL CONTRIBUTORS/PLEASE

Rich D'Angelo, 2216 Burkey Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19619 (RD-PA)  
William Hassig, 102 North Russel Street, Mount Prospect, IL 60056-2443 (WH-IL)  
Chris Lobdell, Box 146, Stoneham, MA 02180 (CL-MA)  
Lee Reynolds, 1027 Province Road, Goshen, NH 03752-3118 (LR-NH)

Woody Smith, P.O. Box 52823, Knoxville, Tennessee 37950 (WS-TN)  
Mark Taylor 1114 Ellen Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53716 (MT-WI)  
George Zeller, 3492 West 123<sup>rd</sup> Street, Cleveland, OH 44111 (GZ-OH)

## TEN (and TWENTY) YEARS AFTER...

May 1985 ACE was 20 pages with a QSL from KIWI (New Zealand's only free radio station) on the cover. It was also the first issue published by Keith Thibodeaux in Louisiana. DialLogs was 5 pages including 1 NAM MW, 17 NAM SW, 13 clandestines, and 5 unIDs from 18 reporters.

May 1995 ACE was 24 pages with a QSL from CFBN (Fly By Night Radio) on the cover. DialLogs was 6 pages featuring 19 NAM SW, 5 Foreign, and 11 unIDs from about a dozen contributors.

## RAMBLINGS

*We have a harrowing tale of "Antenna Madness" for you this month! George Zeller (that estimable paragon of Pirate listeners) sent in the following comments:*

I have a tale to tell this week, which I will tell before I get into the loggings. About two or three weeks ago my antenna suddenly quit working. This put me out of the DX hobby for a while, since my radios do not work very well without an antenna. All of this happened just before the Winter SWL Fest, and while I was at the Fest I could not do any antenna work. When I got home from the Fest, I had to wait for a combination of good weather in Cleveland and a time when I had a few hours to do some antenna work. That time came this weekend. I discovered that my local Radio Shack no longer sells coax with PL-259 connectors on it, and they do not even stock BNC or F to PL-259 adaptors to hook onto the coax that they do have in stock. So, I had to find a store that sells coax for antennas. Radio Shack is not such a place.

Making a long story short, after considerable frustration I took down my old nonworking antennas and I have replaced them with a new Alpha-Delta sloper, which barely fits in my back yard. I have no good words to say for the Alpha-Delta company. They have changed the design of their antennas so that they now have a lot thicker gauge of wire than they used to have. It is all insulated. I presume that this change in the materials in their antennas has been made to increase the life and durability of the antennas. But, it also made the antennas much more complicated for a clumsy lummock to erect. I know that many of us are clumsy lummocks, so caveat emptor with Alpha-Delta antennas.

The Alpha-Delta Sloper antenna comes with a set of instructions saying that it is "easy to assemble." This is not true. It is very difficult to assemble, as are all Alpha-Delta antenna products. First of all, all of the required parts are not provided in the package that the antenna comes in. The first 20 or 30 feet of this antenna is a stub that consists of two wires, separated from each other by four plastic shunts (supplied). However, they tell you to go to the hardware store to buy some plastic to plastic glue, so as to hold the stub of the antenna in place once you erect it. The glue is not supplied. Furthermore, no coax seal is supplied either, although they recommend it for the spot where you screw your coax into the antenna.

These nonsupplied parts are a very bad feature of Alpha-Delta antennas. It is like buying a receiver, and then finding out that you have to go buy your knobs and power cord separately. This is not good marketing. Alpha-Delta should be ashamed of themselves.

Then, once you have acquired the nonsupplied parts, it is still difficult to handle the antenna while you are assembling and erecting it, since the gauge of the wire in the antenna is very thick. This makes the wire hard to handle. It gets tangled up among itself, and it is difficult to move the thick gauge wire through the little holes in the plastic shunts of the stub since the kinks in the wire make it hard to shove the wire through the little holes. I do not recommend the purchase of this antenna for erection purposes, unless you have some mechanical skills that I do not have.

I am not 100% sure what caused my old antennas to suddenly quit working. The main offender was an Alpha-Delta DX Ultra that I had been using for quite a few years now. It may have suffered some wind damage during the winter, but it is also possible that the static discharge

element in the antenna may have given out. We will never know, since Mayor Jane Campbell (D-Cleveland) will be hauling away my old Alpha-Delta DX Ultra with all the other trash on Tuesday this week.

Now, after a great deal of frustration and difficulty, my new Alpha-Delta Sloper antenna is installed and is working, as you see from the logs here this week. I know that I have a previously established reputation for being clumsy with antennas, including the time that I took Ed Mauer's antenna down by mistake during the French Creek DXpedition one time. But, having established this reputation in the past, I now recommend that all clumsy and scatterbrained people avoid buying Alpha-Delta antennas. The gauge of the wire is too thick to work with, and the antennas do not come supplied with all of the parts that you need to erect the antenna. Make sure that you are aware of these negative features before you purchase any Alpha-Delta antennas that currently are on the market.

I ask that you read this review very carefully. I am sure that there will be plenty of wise guys who just skim through the review and then will remember only the part of the review where George Zeller admits in print that he is clumsy and has difficulty with erections. That is not literally what the review says, if you read it carefully.

*As Count Floyd would say - "Wasn't that scary, boys and girls?"*

Well, here at Trump Acres life goes on apace. Working 60 hour weeks at present, gets just a leetle tiring. Oh well, sure as heck beats unemployment, eh?

I note again that we didn't hit double figures in number of reporters. Even with me. Boy, that's depressing.

Got a lot of antenna work to do before the black flies start up and make being outside unbearable. Picked up a very nice discone made by TRAM. All stainless steel, solid radials - ought to last quite a while. Even have a couple of those dread Alpha-Delta antennas awaiting a good erection job. Gotta go pound some ground rods in first of all. Ah, that's an important tip for you - properly grounding your antenna feed will do wonders for cutting down the mount of noise your receiver/antenna picks up. Go to this URL -

<http://www.arraysolutions.com/Products/ice/impulse1.html#1>

- and take a look at the devices they sell. One of those in your antenna coax, properly grounded, does a wonderful job of reducing noise and protecting your radio's front end against static charges. I use them myself and can attest to their effectiveness.

Okay, that's it for this month - I'm tired and Krusty wants his column. If you hear things, do us all a favor and send us the logs - we'd all appreciate them.

## PROPAGATION

**What it be:**

Okay, just like the sea, radio waves below a certain frequency display tide-like behavior that is dependent upon the time of day at your location and at the target location. (*Arrr, me hearties - 'tis a most appropriate metaphor!*) Listen for a given area at one time and you'll hear nothing. Listen, say, twelve hours later and you'll find what you're looking for. That's a real simple description of a very complex subject.

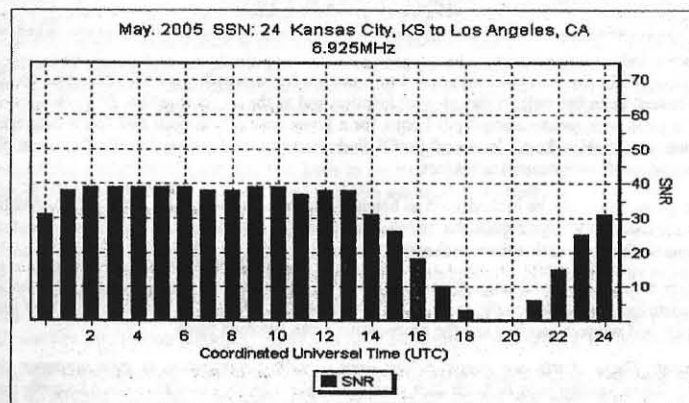
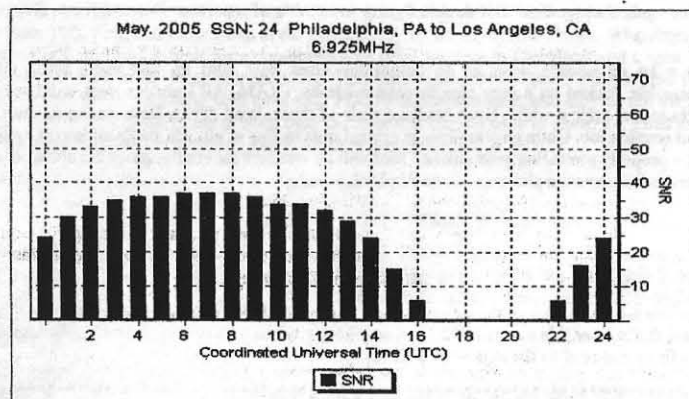
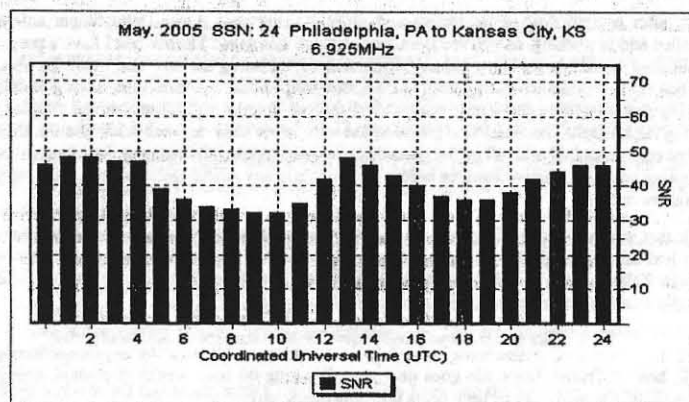
The tables below can be looked upon as being like tide charts for a certain part of the world and a certain frequency. The higher the "tide" displayed, the better the radio path between the two points on the chart at that time on that frequency.

To try to provide useful propagation for the ACE readership I cover the most common Pirate frequencies month by month and I produce tables that roughly divide the USA into eastern, central and western sections and the propagation paths between them.

*Caveat: These charts are rough guides only - radio propagation is even stranger than a Republican Senator who believes that poor folk need a break more than the obscenely wealthy do - you sometimes hear the darnedest things come out of nowhere when you least expect it. Use them as a guide but don't let it stop you listening for a target when it says propagation is at its poorest - just use them as indicators of "best chances"!*



If you want to do more serious reading about propagation the book "The New Shortwave Propagation Handbook" is a pretty good read on the subject and even us po' folks who can't afford RX-340s can understand it!



## Veried Response

Ye Olde jta  
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May 2005

gnuz and gnotes...

What do you do after designing and selling LPFM xmtr kits to potential unlicensed broadcasters? Well, as a logical next step, Steve Dunifer (of FRB fame) is now working on a LPTV transmitter! According to the clipping forwarded to us, the design centers on a new Mitsubishi cable TV modulator to which Steve is adding a RF amplifier circuit. A unit developing 75 watts should cost about \$500, well within the reach of most alternative (and activist) would-be broadcasters; just add a videocam and/or a DVD player and an antenna, and Shazam!, you're on the air. There's no indication as to just when the units (or kits) will be available, but keep your antenna on the roof and check any available channel in your area.

[San Francisco Bay Guardian, 24 Nov 2004, with thanks to Rudy Elsen]

(note: I attempted to scan and print the entire article, but the text would have been waayyy too small to read without a migraine headache after reducing. Sorry. jta)

under the door...  
the QSL report

Woody Smith reports a full data QSL and mini-CD from Pirate Radio Boston in five weeks, a beautiful full color full data QSL from Channel Z for a WNKR relay saying 10 watts in about 12 days, an eQSL from WNKR for the Channel Z relay in a few days, and a 2004 QSL from WJFK which he's not sure he heard. [Sounds about right. jta]

Let's see your QSL report here next month! 73 and good DX.

**the ASSOCIATION of CLANDESTINE radio ENTHUSIASTS**  
**PO Box 1, Belfast, New York 14711-0001**

The A\*C\*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A\*C\*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A\*C\*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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